USB-Blaster II Download Cable

User Guide

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1. Setting Up the USB-Blaster II Download Cable

The USB-Blaster™ II download cable interfaces a USB port on a host computer to an Altera® FPGA mounted on a printed circuit board. The download cable sends data from the PC to a standard 10-pin header connected to the FPGA. You can use the download cable for the following:

- Iteratively download configuration data to a system during prototyping
- Program data into the system during production
- Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) key and fuse programming

Supported Devices and Systems

You can use the USB-Blaster II download cable to download configuration data to the following Altera devices:

- Stratix® series FPGAs
- Cyclone® series FPGAs
- MAX® series CPLDs
- Arria® series FPGAs

You can perform in-system programming of the following devices:

- EPC4, EPC8, and EPC16 enhanced configuration devices
- EPCS1, EPCS4, EPCS16, EPCS64, and EPCS/Q128, EPCQ256, and EPCQ512 serial configuration devices

The download cable supports target systems using the following:

- 5.0-V TTL, 3.3-V LVTTL/LVCMOS
- Single-ended I/O standards from 1.5 V to 3.3 V

Power Source Requirements

- 5.0 V from the USB cable
- Between 1.5 V and 5.0 V from the target circuit board

Software Requirements and Support

- Windows 7/8 (32-bit and 64-bit)
- Windows XP (32-bit and 64-bit)
- Windows Server 2008 R2 (64-bit)
- Linux platforms such as Red Hat Enterprise 5

Use the Quartus® II software version 14.0 or later to configure your device.

Quartus II software version 13.1 supports most of the download cable's capabilities. If you use this version, install the latest patch for full compatibility.

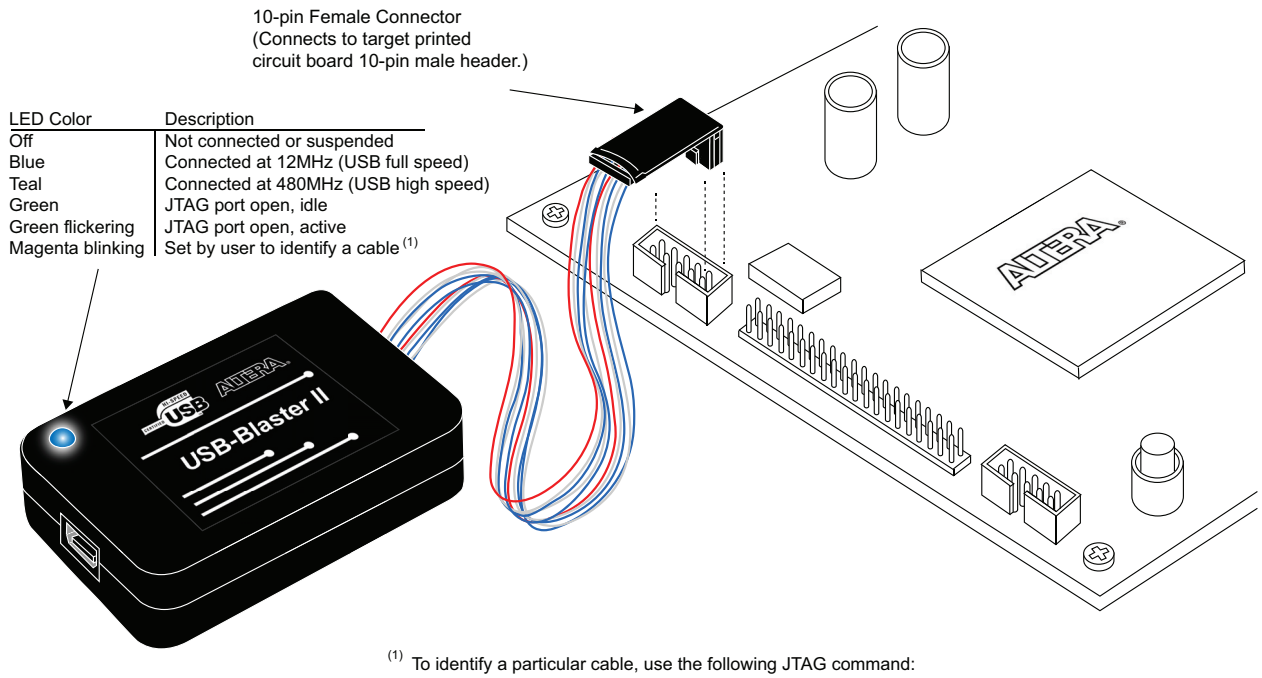
The download cable also supports the following tools:

- Quartus II Programmer (and stand-alone version)
- Quartus II SignalTap® II Logic Analyzer (and stand-alone version)
- JTAG and debug tools supported by the JTAG Server. For example:
  - System Console
  - Nios II debugger
  - ARM DS-5 debugger

Installing the Download Cable for Configuration or Programming

1. Disconnect the power cable from the circuit board.
2. Connect the download cable to the USB port on your computer and to the USB-Blaster II port.
3. Connect the download cable to the 10-pin header on the device board.
4. Reconnect the power cable to reapply power to the circuit board.

Figure 1–1. The USB-Blaster II Download Cable



(1) To identify a particular cable, use the following JTAG command:
`jtagconfig --setparam <cable number> Identify <1 = on, 0 = off>`

For plug and header dimensions, pin names, and operating conditions, see Chapter 2, USB-Blaster II Download Cable Specifications.

Installing the USB-Blaster II Driver on Windows 7/8 Systems

You must have system administration (administrator) privileges to install the USB-Blaster II download cable drivers.

The download cable drivers are included in the Quartus II software installation. Before you begin the installation, verify that the USB-Blaster II driver is located in your directory: \<*Quartus II system directory*>**drivers\usb-blaster-ii**.

1. Connect the download cable to your computer's USB port.

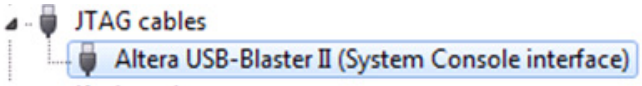
   When plugged in for the first time, a message appears stating **Device driver software was not successfully installed**.

2. From the Windows Device Manager, locate **Other devices** and right-click the top **USB-BlasterII**.

   You need to install drivers for each interface: one for the JTAG interface and one for the System Console interface.

3. On the right-click menu, click **Update Driver Software**. The **Update Driver Software - USB BlasterII** dialog appears.
4. Click **Browse my computer for driver software** to continue.
5. Click **Browse…** and browse to the location of the driver on your system: \<*Quartus II system directory*>**\drivers\usb-blaster-ii.** Click **OK**.
6. Click **Next** to install the driver.
7. Click **Install** when asked if you want to install.

   You should now have a JTAG cable showing in the Device Manager.



8. Now, install the driver for the other interface. Go back to step 2 and repeat the process for the other **USB-BlasterII** device.

   When you are finished, you will have added **Altera USB-Blast II (JTAG interface)** under JTAG cables.

Installing the USB-Blaster II Driver on Linux Systems

For Linux, the USB-Blaster II download cable supports Red Hat Enterprise 5 and above.

To access the download cable, the Quartus II software uses the built-in Red Hat USB drivers, the USB file system (usbfs). By default, *root* is the only user allowed to use usbfs. You must have system administration (root) privileges to configure the USB-Blaster II download cable drivers.

1. Create a file named **/etc/udev/rules.d/51-usbblaster.rules** and add the following lines to it. (The **.rules** file may already exist if you have installed an earlier USB-Blaster version.)

```
# USB-Blaster II
BUS=="usb", SYSFS{idVendor}=="09fb", SYSFS{idProduct}=="6010", MODE="0666"
BUS=="usb", SYSFS{idVendor}=="09fb", SYSFS{idProduct}=="6810", MODE="0666"
```

There should be only three lines in this file, one starting with a comment and two starting with *BUS*. Do not add extra line breaks to the **.rules** file.

2. Complete your installation by setting up the programming hardware in the Quartus II software. Go to the "Setting Up the USB-Blaster II Hardware with the Quartus II Software" section on the following page.

For more information about USB-Blaster II driver installation, refer to the *Cable and Adapter Drivers* web page http://www.altera.com/download/drivers/dri-index.html.

Installing the USB-Blaster II Driver on Windows XP Systems

You must have system administration (administrator) privileges to install the USB-Blaster II download cable driver.

The download cable drivers are included in the Quartus II software installation. Before you begin the installation, verify that the USB-Blaster II driver is located in your directory: \<*Quartus II system directory*>**drivers\usb-blaster-ii**.

Follow the installation procedure found at this web page: http://www.altera.com/download/drivers/usb-blaster/dri-usb-blaster-xp.html#note.

Setting Up the USB-Blaster II Hardware with the Quartus II Software

1. Start the Quartus II software.
2. From the Tools menu, click **Programmer**.
3. Click **Hardware Setup**.
4. Click the **Hardware Settings** tab.
5. From the **Currently selected hardware** list, select **USB-Blaster II**.
6. Click **Close**.
7. In the **Mode** list, choose an appropriate programming mode. Table 1–1 on page 1–5 describes each mode.

Table 1–1. Programming Modes

Mode	Mode Description
Joint Test Action Group (JTAG)	Programs or configures all Altera devices supported by Quartus II software via JTAG programming.
In-Socket Programming	Not supported by the USB-Blaster II.
Passive Serial Programming	Configures all Altera devices supported by Quartus II software excluding enhanced configuration devices (EPC) and serial configuration devices (EPCS/Q).
Active Serial Programming	Programs a single EPCS1, EPCS4, EPCS16, EPCS64, EPCS/Q128, EPCQ256, and EPCQ512 device.

For detailed help on using the Quartus II Programmer, refer to the *Quartus II Handbook*, http://www.altera.com/literature/hb/qts/quartusii_handbook.pdf.

2. USB-Blaster II Download Cable Specifications

Voltage Requirements

The USB-Blaster II VCC (TRGT) pin must be connected to a specific voltage for the device being programmed. Connect pull-up resistors to the same power supply as the USB-Blaster II: $V_{CC(TRGT)}$.

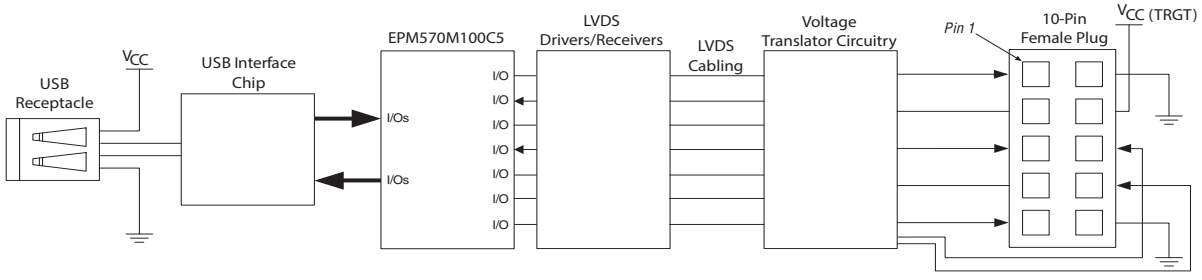
Table 2–1. USB-Blaster II VCC(TRGT) Pin Voltage Requirements

Device Family	USB-Blaster II VCC Voltage Required
Arria GX	As specified by V_{CCSEL}
Arria II GX	As specified by V_{CCPD} or V_{CCIO} of Bank 8C
Arria V	As specified by V_{CCPD} Bank 3A
Cyclone III	As specified by V_{CCA} or V_{CCIO}
Cyclone IV	As specified by V_{CCIO}. Bank 9 for Cyclone IV GX and Bank 1 for Cyclone IV E devices.
Cyclone V	As specified by V_{CCPD} Bank 3A
EPC4, EPC8, EPC16	3.3 V
EPCS1, EPCS4, EPCS16, EPCS64, EPCS128	3.3 V
EPCS/Q16, EPCS/Q64, EPCS/Q128, EPCQ256, EPCQ512	3.3 V
MAX II, MAX V	As specified by V_{CCIO} of Bank 1
Stratix II, Stratix II GX	As specified by V_{CCSEL}
Stratix III, Stratix IV	As specified by V_{CCPGM} or V_{CCPD}
Stratix V	As specified by V_{CCPD} Bank 3A

Cable-to-Board Connection

A standard USB cable connects to the USB port on the device.

Figure 2–1. USB-Blaster II Download Cable Block Diagram



USB-Blaster II Plug Connection

The 10-pin female plug connects to a 10-pin male header on the circuit board containing the target device.

Figure 2–2. USB-Blaster II Dimension - Inches and Millimeters

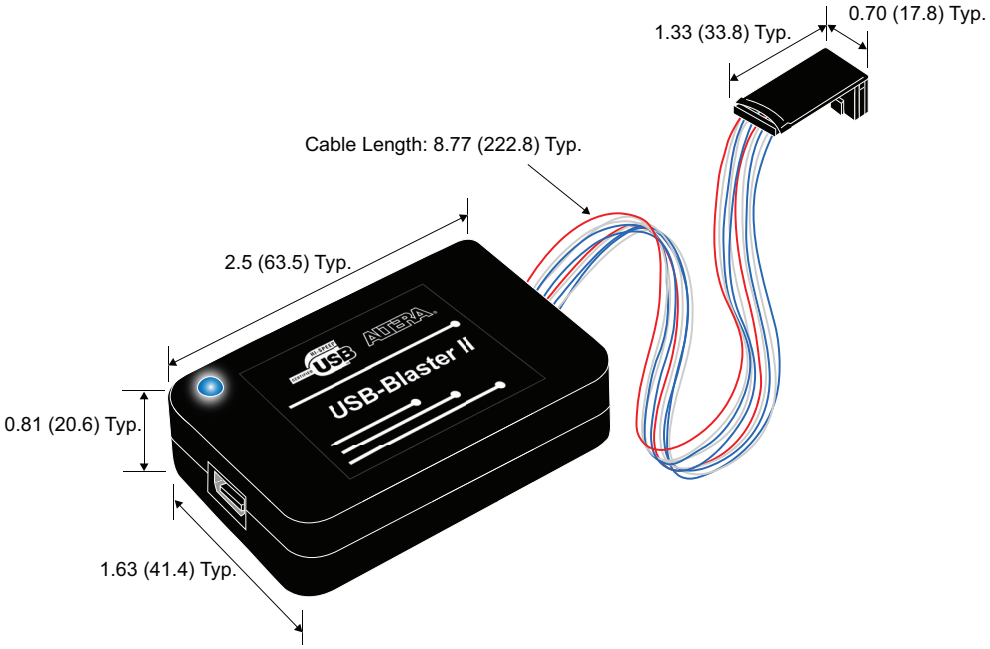
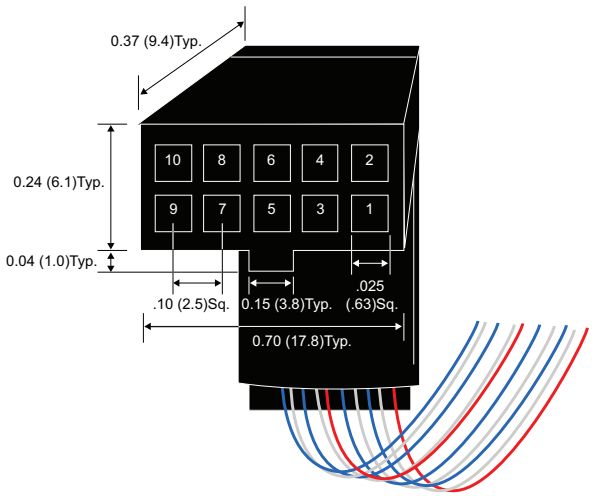


Figure 2–3. USB-Blaster II 10-Pin Female Plug Dimensions - Inches & Millimeters



10-Pin Female Plug Signal Names and Programming Modes

Table 2–2. 10-Pin II Female Plug Signal Names and Programming Modes

Pin	Active Serial (AS) Mode		Passive Serial (PS) Mode		JTAG Mode	
	Signal Name	Description	Signal Name	Description	Signal Name	Description
1	DCLK	Clock signal	DCLK	Clock signal	TCK	Clock signal
2	GND	Signal ground	GND	Signal ground	GND	Signal ground
3	CONF_DONE	Configuration done	CONF_DONE	Configuration done	TDO	Data from device
4	VCC(TRGT)	Target power supply	VCC(TRGT)	Target power supply	VCC(TRGT)	Target power supply
5	nCONFIG	Configuration control	nCONFIG	Configuration control	TMS	JTAG state machine control
6	nCE	Cyclone chip enable	—	No connect	PROC_RST (1)	Hard processor reset
7	DATAOUT	Active serial data out	nSTATUS	Configuration status	—	No connect
8	nCS	Serial configuration device chip select	—	No connect	—	No connect
9	ASDI	Active serial data in	DATA0	Data to device	TDI	Data to device
10	GND	Signal ground	GND	Signal ground	GND	Signal ground

Note to Table 2–2:

(1) Use pin 6 for a hard processor reset under JTAG mode.

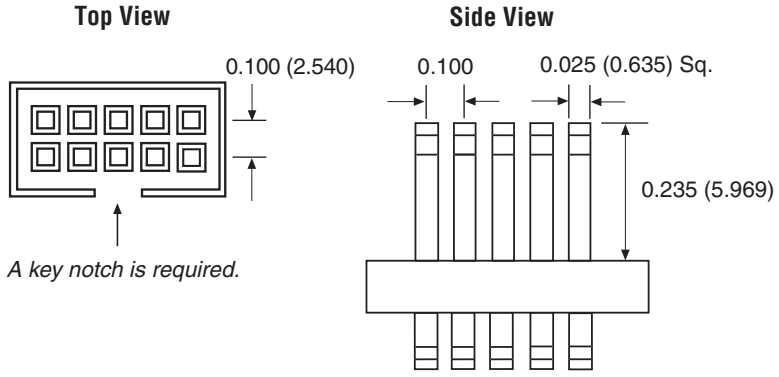
Circuit Board Header Connection

The 10-pin male header, which connects to the download cable's 10-pin female plug, has two rows of five pins. The pins are connected to the device's programming or configuration pins.

CAUTION

If the header connection on the circuit board is a male receptacle, it must have a key notch. Without a key notch, the 10-pin female plug will not connect. The following figure shows a typical 10-pin male header with a key notch.

Figure 2–4. 10-Pin Male Header Dimensions - Inches and Millimeters



Although a 10-pin surface mount header can be used for the download cable, Altera recommends using a through-hole connector. Through-hole connectors hold up better under the repeated insertion and removal.

Operating Conditions

The following tables summarize the maximum ratings, recommended operating conditions, and DC operating conditions for the USB-Blaster II cable.

Table 2–3. USB-Blaster II Cable Absolute Maximum Ratings

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Max	Unit
$V_{CC(TRGT)}$	Target supply voltage	With respect to ground	–0.5	6.5	V
$V_{CC(USB)}$	USB supply voltage	With respect to ground	–0.5	6.0	V
I_I	Target side input current	Pin 7	–100.0	100.0	mA
$I_{I(USB)}$	USB supply current	VBUS	—	200.0	mA
I_o	Target side output current	Pins: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9	–50.0	50.0	mA

Table 2–4. USB-Blaster II Cable Recommended Operating Conditions

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Max	Unit
$V_{CC(TRGT)}$	Target supply voltage, 5.0-V operation	—	4.75	5.25	V
	Target supply voltage, 3.3-V operation	—	3.0	3.6	V
	Target supply voltage, 2.5-V operation	—	2.375	2.625	V
	Target supply voltage, 1.8-V operation	—	1.71	1.89	V
	Target supply voltage, 1.5-V operation	—	1.43	1.57	V

Table 2–5. USB-Blaster II Cable DC Operating Conditions (Part 1 of 2)

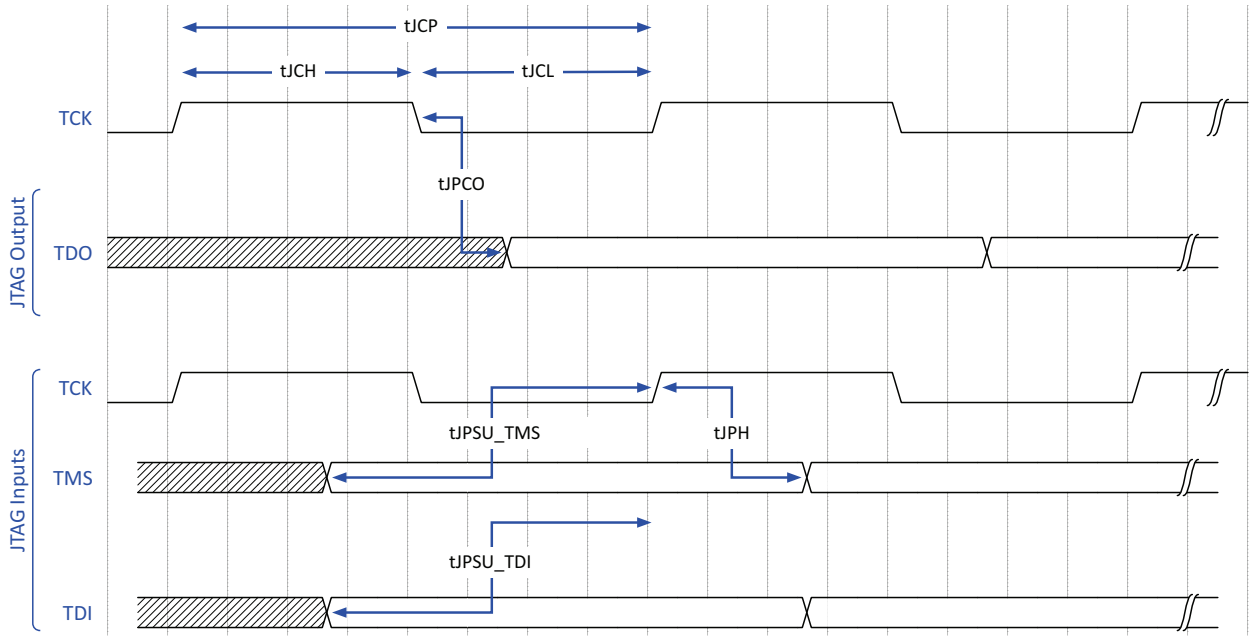
Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Max	Unit
V_{IH}	High-level input voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ >= 2.0 V	0.7 x $V_{CC(TRGT)}$	—	V
		$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ < 2.0 V	0.65 x $V_{CC(TRGT)}$	—	V
V_{IL}	Low-level input voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ >= 2.0 V	—	0.3 x $V_{CC(TRGT)}$	V
		$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ < 2.0 V	—	0.2 x $V_{CC(TRGT)}$	V

Table 2–5. USB-Blaster II Cable DC Operating Conditions (Part 2 of 2)

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Max	Unit
V_{OH}	5.0-V high-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 4.5 V, I_{OH} = -32 mA	3.8	—	V
	3.3-V high-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 3.0 V, I_{OH} = -24 mA	2.4	—	V
	2.5-V high-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 2.3 V, I_{OH} = -12 mA	1.9	—	V
	1.8-V high-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 1.65 V, I_{OH} = -8 mA	1.2	—	V
	1.5-V high-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 1.4 V, I_{OH} = -6 mA	1.0	—	V
V_{OL}	5.0-V low-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 4.5 V, I_{OL} = 32 mA	—	0.55	V
	3.3-V low-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 3.0 V, I_{OL} = 24 mA	—	0.55	V
	2.5-V low-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 2.3 V, I_{OL} = 12 mA	—	0.3	V
	1.8-V low-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 1.65 V, I_{OL} = 8 mA	—	0.45	V
	1.5-V low-level output voltage	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 1.4 V, I_{OL} = 6 mA	—	0.3	V
$I_{CC(TRGT)}$	Operating current (No Load)	$V_{CC(TRGT)}$ = 5.5 V	—	316	uA

JTAG Timing Constraints and Waveforms

Figure 2–5. Timing Waveform for JTAG Signals (From Target Device Perspective)



To use the USB-Blaster II at the maximum capability (24 MHz), meet the timing constraints (Table 2–6) for the target device.

The timing constraints require that you consider device specifications as well as trace propagation delays. If you do not follow the recommended constraints, you might encounter timing issues at 24 MHz. If the target design cannot meet these constraints, reduce the possibility of timing issues by slowing the TCK frequency. See "Changing the TCK Frequency" on page 2–7 for instructions on running the USB-Blaster II at a slower speed.

Table 2–6. JTAG Timing Constraints for the Target Device

Symbol	Parameter	Min	Max	Unit
tJCP	TCK clock period	41.67	—	ns
tJCH	TCK clock high time	20.83	—	ns
tJCL	TCK clock low time	20.83	—	ns
tJPCO	JTAG port clock to JTAG Header output	—	5.46 (2.5 V) 2.66 (1.5 V)	ns
tJPSU_TDI	JTAG port setup time (TDI)	—	24.42	ns
tJPSU_TMS	JTAG port setup time (TMS)	—	26.43	ns
tJPH	JTAG port hold time	—	17.25	ns

The simulated timing is based on a slow timing model, which is a worst-case scenario environment.

For device-specific JTAG timing information, refer to the related device data sheet available from the http://www.altera.com/literature/lit-index.html web page.

Changing the TCK Frequency

The USB-Blaster II download cable has a default TCK frequency of 24 MHz. Where signal integrity and timing prevents operating at 24 MHz, change the TCK frequency of the USB-Blaster II:

1. Open the command line interface with the Quartus II bin directory in your path (for example, **C:\altera\14.0\quartus\bin64**).
2. Type the following command to change the TCK frequency:

   ```
   jtagconfig --setparam <cable number> JtagClock <frequency><unit prefix>
   ```

   Where:

   - <cable number> is the USB-Blaster II cable to be modified.
   - <frequency> is the desired TCK frequency. Use one the following supported rates:
     - 24 MHz
     - 16 MHz
     - 6 MHz
     - 24/*n* MHz (between 10 kHz and 6 MHz, where *n* represents an integer value number)
   - <unit prefix> is the unit prefix for the frequency (e.g., *M* for MHz).

   Example for setting TCK maximum frequency to 6 MHz:

   ```
   jtagconfig --setparam 1 JtagClock 6M
   ```

Document Revision History

Date	Version	Changes
September 2014	1.2	Added that the USB-II download cable supports Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) key and fuse programming. Added magenta LED color to Figure 1-1 supporting multiple cable use. Clarified a cross reference pointing to device-specific JTAG timing information.
June 2014	1.1	Added LED color table to Figure 1-1. Added "JTAG Timing Constraints and Waveforms" section. Added "Changing the TCK Frequency" section.
January 2014	1.0	Initial release.

How to Contact Altera

To locate the most up-to-date information about Altera products, refer to the following table.

Contact (1)	Contact Method	Address
Technical support	Website	www.altera.com/support
Technical training	Website	www.altera.com/training
	Email	custrain@altera.com
Product literature	Website	www.altera.com/literature
Nontechnical support (general)	Email	nacomp@altera.com
(software licensing)	Email	authorization@altera.com

Note to Table:

(1) You can also contact your local Altera sales office or sales representative.

Typographic Conventions

Visual Cue	Meaning
Bold Type with Initial Capital Letters	Indicate command names, dialog box titles, dialog box options, and other GUI labels. For example, **Save As** dialog box. For GUI elements, capitalization matches the GUI.
bold type	Indicates directory names, project names, disk drive names, file names, file name extensions, software utility names, and GUI labels. For example, **\qdesigns** directory, **D:** drive, and **chiptrip.gdf** file.
Italic Type with Initial Capital Letters	Indicate document titles. For example, *Stratix IV Design Guidelines*.
italic type	Indicates variables. For example, *n* + 1. Variable names are enclosed in angle brackets (< >). For example, *<file name>* and *<project name>***.pof** file.
Initial Capital Letters	Indicate keyboard keys and menu names. For example, the Delete key and the Options menu.
"Subheading Title"	Quotation marks indicate references to sections in a document and titles of Quartus II Help topics. For example, "Typographic Conventions."
`Courier type`	Indicates signal, port, register, bit, block, and primitive names. For example, `data1`, `tdi`, and `input`. The suffix `n` denotes an active-low signal. For example, `resetn`. Indicates command line commands and anything that must be typed exactly as it appears. For example, `c:\qdesigns\tutorial\chiptrip.gdf`. Also indicates sections of an actual file, such as a Report File, references to parts of files (for example, the AHDL keyword `SUBDESIGN`), and logic function names (for example, `TRI`).
↵	An angled arrow instructs you to press the Enter key.
1., 2., 3., and a., b., c., and so on	Numbered steps indicate a list of items when the sequence of the items is important, such as the steps listed in a procedure.
■ ■ ■	Bullets indicate a list of items when the sequence of the items is not important.
	The hand points to information that requires special attention.
	The question mark directs you to a software help system with related information.
	The feet direct you to another document or website with related information.
	The multimedia icon directs you to a related multimedia presentation.
	A caution calls attention to a condition or possible situation that can damage or destroy the product or your work.
	A warning calls attention to a condition or possible situation that can cause you injury.
	The envelope links to the Email Subscription Management Center page of the Altera website, where you can sign up to receive update notifications for Altera documents.
	The feedback icon allows you to submit feedback to Altera about the document. Methods for collecting feedback vary as appropriate for each document.

Certification Statements

Statement of China-RoHS Compliance

Table Info–1 lists hazardous substances included with the USB-Blaster download cable.

Table Info–1. Table of Hazardous Substances' Name and Concentration *(1)*

Part Name	Lead (Pb)	Cadmium (Cd)	Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6+)	Mercury (Hg)	Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB)	Polybrominated diphenyl Ethers (PBDE)
Electronic Components	0	0	0	0	0	0
Populated Circuit Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing Process	0	0	0	0	0	0
Packing	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note to Table Info–1:

(1) 0 indicates that the concentration of the hazardous substance in all homogeneous materials in the parts is below the relevant threshold of the SJ/T11363-2006 standard.

USB 2.0 Certification

This product is USB 2.0 certified.